

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method of providing constraints, the method comprising the steps of:
_____ placing declarative constraint information within a declarative data block
describing an electronic document; and
_____ processing, by a processor, the declarative constraint information as declarative data when the document is accessed, wherein the constraints are in Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine (DICOM) Structured Reporting (SR) format.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3~~1~~, wherein the declarative data block is in Extensible Markup Language (XML).

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3~~1~~, wherein the constraint provided is that an element be present.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3~~1~~, wherein the constraint provided is that an element be of a specified element type.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3~~1~~, wherein the constraint provided

is that two or more elements be in a specific sequence.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of providing Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine (DICOM) Structured Reporting (SR) constraints within an XML document, the method comprising the steps of:

creating an XML document containing DICOM SR constraints using declarative language; and

providing a processor operable byallowing a user to access the XML document.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 119, wherein the processor is further configured to store a declarative data block describing the document including the declarative constraint instructions to a data storage operated by the processor.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 9~~A system for specifying constraints for digital images and communications in medicine, the system comprising:
a memory with a document in electronic form with declarative constraint instructions; and
a computer processor operatively coupled with the memory and a display device, the processor configured to execute declarative constraint instructions in the document, display the document on the display device, wherein the declarative constraint instructions are in Digital Imaging and Communication in Medicine (DICOM) Structured

Reporting (SR) format.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 119, wherein the document is in Extensible Markup Language (XML).

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 119, wherein the constraint is that an element be present.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 119, wherein the constraint is that an element be of a specified element type.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the constraint is that two or more elements be in a specific sequence.